

### 17) Sabal Palm (*Sabal palmetto*)

Aka: Cabbage Palm

State tree, the large fronds are deeply divided and folded in the middle. They are dull gray-green, 3-5 ft. across. Trunk is smooth and dark gray on older trees; younger trees are covered with cross-hatched old leaf bases. Blooms are small white, fragrant flowers that hang in clusters on 3 ft. stems, appearing in early summer. The fruit is round, ½ in., black, ripening in fall. The edible bud, called heart of palm, is considered a delicacy but collecting it kills the plant.



18) Restoration area-This area is undergoing a Brazilian Pepper eradication program to remove exotics

### 19) Papaya (*Carica papaya*)

Native to tropical America. Escaped from cultivation. Known for its tasty fruit.



### 20) Paradise Tree (*Simarouba glauca*)

Aka: Bitterwood; Leaflets are leathery dark green above & light gray below. New growth is red and showy. Trunk has thin gray bark. Bloom is yellow with one inch fruits appearing on female trees in May and is purplish-black in color. One of Florida's most beautiful native trees



The site was purchased with funds from Florida Communities Trust's Preservation 2000 program and St. Lucie County's Environmentally Significant Lands (ESL) Program

**St. Lucie Board of County Commissioners**  
**Environmental Resources**  
**6120 Glades Cut-off Road**  
**Ft. Pierce, FL 34981/561-462-2526**

# Ocean Bay Nature Trail

## Welcome to the Ocean Bay Nature Trail!

This short interpretive trail winds through a unique ecosystem. The vegetation of the coastal berm and coastal strand have adapted to the harsh environment of salt and tidal influences.

Please enjoy walking and experiencing what the trail has to offer, and be sure to leave the site as you found it! Above all come back and re-visit from time to time!



### 1) Saltbush (*Baccharis halimifolia*)

Aka: Paintbrush  
Leaves are 2-3 in. long and are toothed near the ends. Trunk is multi-stemmed brown in color. Blooms in late summer and fall. Female plants produce the fluffy seed clusters that

resemble the end of a paint brush.

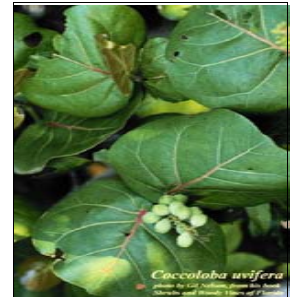
**St. Lucie County**  
**Environmental Resources**



2) Winged Sumac - (*Rhus copallina*) Medium brown, thin barked, w/younger stems reddish and fuzzy: female tree produce small, fuzzy, bright red fruit that ripens in fall. Leaves are alternate compound and have nine to 21 oblong, pointed leaflets, 2 inches long, glossy dark green above and fuzzy beneath.

### 3) Seagrape (*Coccoloba uvifera*)

Leaves are large, round, leathery 6-8 in. across. New growth is glossy. Trunk is multi-



stemmed with peeling bark in varying shades of brown. Blooms are tiny white flowers on spikes up to 10 in. in length and fruit is edible, purple, ¼ in. round in grape-like clusters.



### 4) Spanish stopper (*Eugenia myrtoides*)

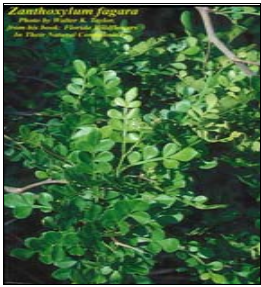
Bark is dusky gray, mottled by lichens. Leaves are dark green and glossy above, lighter below, with curled under margins.

Grows tall & narrow.





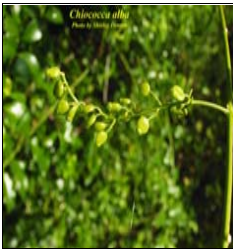
5) Wild Lime (*Zanthoxylum fagara*)  
Leaf stems are winged, with 7 to 9 leaflets. Bark is dark with sharp spines. Flowers are tiny and fragrant. Fruits are small, brown, and related to citrus. In the West Indies, the leaves, twigs and bark are used in medicine, especially to relieve toothache.



6) Hercules' Club (*Zanthoxylum clavaherculis*)  
Related to the wild lime. Deciduous, course textured and salt-tolerant, but very thorny. Small attractive shade tree In natural habitat., Its valuable wood is sought for use in fine cabinetry, inlay work and paneling.



*Chiococca alba*  
7) Snowberry - (*Chiococca alba*)  
A sprawling shrub of several trunks and few branches. The bark is yellowish gray, marked by deposits of cork. Leaves are bright green. This gardenia relative offers delicate flowers with pleasant fragrance, as well as ornamental fruit. It will climb and may even creep along the ground.

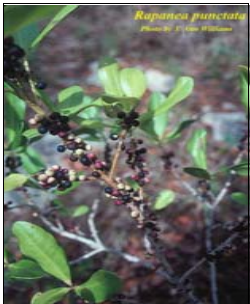


8) Gumbo Limbo (*Bursera simaruba*) Trunk, massive with smooth peeling bark which also lends itself to be known as tourist tree because of its thin, flaking orange bronze colored bark. Blooms are inconspicuous greenish spikes and blooms in the spring with dark red angled ½ in fruits with white seeds. Tree is drought & salt tolerant and has no preference for soil conditions. Fruit attracts birds, especially flycatchers.

9) Florida Privet - (*Forestiera segregata*)  
Aka: Florida Swamp privet  
Leaves are small oval, 1-3 in. long and are glossy, dark green above and lighter green below. Trunk is usually multi-stemmed, with smooth, pale gray bark. Blooms are tiny, fuzzy, yellowish green flowers, blooming in clusters along the branches in spring. The fruit is oval, olive-like, ½ in. black in color.



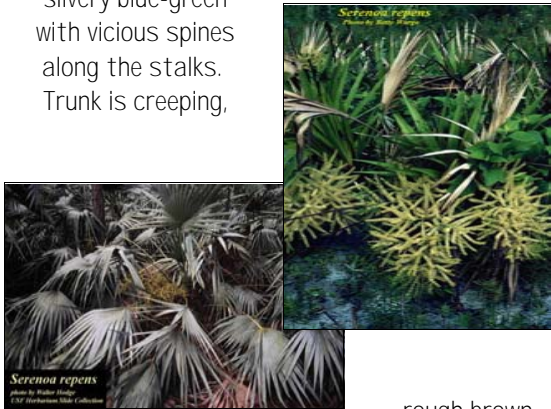
10) Strangler Fig (*Ficus aurea*)  
A large, sturdy trunk, often with aerial roots. Milky sap. Typically begins as a climber on a host tree & quickly outgrows and strangles it.



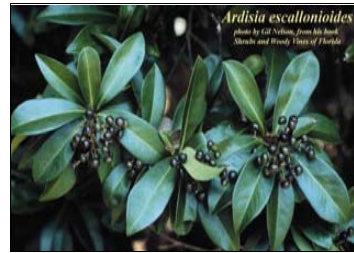
11) Myrsine (*Myrsine punctata*)  
Leaves are light green and thick, on short stems, crowded on light green twigs. Trunk usually shrubby, with light gray bark. Blooms are tiny clusters of greenish-white flowers, blooming in winter and spring. Fruit borne on twigs below the leaves.



12) Saw Palmetto (*Serenoa repens*)  
Leaves are fan-like, 3 to 4 ft. divided fronds, either green or silvery blue-green with vicious spines along the stalks. Trunk is creeping,



rough brown that runs along the ground, forming dense thickets. Blooms are long branched clusters of tiny white flowers. Fruit are black 3/4 in. in diameter.

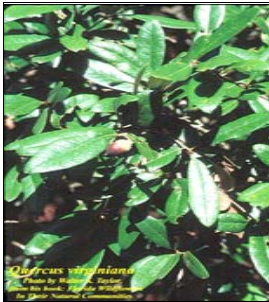


is thin with grey bark. Blooms appear in clusters of 1/4 in. fragrant white flowers streaked with red or purple appearing from spring to fall with fruit rounded, shiny, purplish-black and cluster at the ends of the branch.



14) Red Mulberry (*Morus rubra*)  
Leaves are soft, fuzzy, heart-shaped with toothed edges. Trunk is a medium brown with thin ridged bark. Blooms are many whitish flowers blooming in spring with fruit up to 1 ½ in oblong and is edible. Fruit ripens in late spring turning from red to black.

15) Live Oak (*Quercus Virginiana*)  
Evergreen oak, looks live even in winter. Leaves are leathery, narrow and oval, can reach 4-5 in. long. They are dark green and lighter underneath. Trunk is very thick, dividing into many wide flung branches low on the trunk. Bloom is yellowish to 3 in. long and produces 3/4 in. edible acorn.



16) Wild Coffee (*Psychotria nervosa*)  
Leaves are dark green, glossy, oval, pointed up to 6 in. long with prominent veins. Trunk is multi-stemmed, shrub-like with brown bark. The blooms, small white flowers in clusters appear in spring & summer with fruit of oval red berries about 1/3 inches long. Fruit was used for medicinal purposes by native American Indian.

